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3732

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: THIRY, Pol Jean-Marie Robert

SERIAL NO.: 10/537,652

ART UNIT: 3732

FILED: February 27, 2006

EXAMINER: Kilkenny, P.J.

TITLE: ORTHODONTIC WIRE AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 8 (canceled). Please cancel Claims 1 - 8 and substitute Claims 9 - 16 therefor as follows:

9. (new) An orthodontic wire used with attachments suitable for bonding on teeth so as to correct a position of the teeth, said orthodontic wire comprising:

a wire of a titanium-molybdenum alloy having an outer surface layer of a titanium nitride that is free of titanium oxide, said titanium nitride selected from the group consisting of TiN and Ti₂N.

10. (new) The method of making a metallic wire suitable for use with attachments for bonding on teeth so as to correct a position of the teeth, the method comprising:

forming the wire of a titanium-molybdenum alloy;

forming an outer surface layer of titanium nitride on the wire by superficially implanting N⁺ and N⁺⁺ ions in a vacuum enclosure at a temperature of less than 450°C, said titanium nitride selected from the group consisting of TiN and Ti₂N.

11. (new) The method of Claim 10, the superficial implanting being performed in two consecutive phases.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

AMENDMENT "A"

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

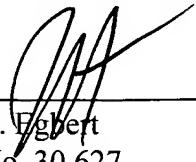
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
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on **OCT 04 2006**

Date

OCT 04 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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